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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/907,249	07/17/2001	Gopichand Katragadda	1739/42	6639

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DORR CARSON SLOAN & BIRNEY, PC
3010 EAST 6TH AVENUE
DENVER, CO 80206

EXAMINER

SNOW, WALTER E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2862

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/907249

Applicant(s)

Examiner

W. Snow

Group Art Unit

2862

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 20 is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-15, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12 and 19 is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2 & 4
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2862

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10, 13-13-15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Earnst et al. (reference M on PTO-1449) in view of Wilson.

Earnst discloses all of the claimed subject matter, except for the specific details of the DC magnet, the carriage for the eddy current probe and the specific details of the mounting of the eddy current probe. Wilson teaches in the same field of endeavor mounting a magnetic flaw detector on a carriage for forcing the detector against the rail head for the purpose of maintaining the detector parallel with the rail at all times. This protects the detector from damage and inherently controls lift-off. It would have been obvious to provide a carriage as claimed for the eddy current probe in the device of Earnst in view of the teaching of Wilson. The details of the DC Magnet and the mounting of the eddy current probe are considered obvious design considerations well within the capabilities of one skilled in the art.

3. Claims 11, 12 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 16 and 20 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2862

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Walter Snow at telephone number (703) 305-4911.

W SNOW/pj

07/05/02


WALTER E. SNOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER